

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a print job comprising the steps of:
 - selecting an object in said print job;
 - determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; [[and]]
 - selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step; and
 - partitioning said print job based upon said number of usages.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said print job comprises a page description language (PDL) file.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said print job includes at least one of: a plurality of pages and a plurality of documents.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said object is an image.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects further comprises the steps of:

generating a signature associated with said object; and
comparing said signature with other signatures stored in an object table.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

incrementing a value stored in an object reuse field of an object table.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

caching said object based upon said number of usages.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 1, further comprising the steps of:

grouping pages with common objects into a partition; and
balancing a number of pages between partitions.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

transforming said object, prior to said step of determining, into a predetermined coordinate system and at least one predetermined sequence of rendering operations.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for processing a print job comprising:
a processor for selecting an object in said print job and determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and
an object table for storing information associated with said print job, wherein said processor selectively increments a number of usages of said object based upon whether said object has said match, wherein said processor partitions said print job based upon said number of usages.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said print job comprises a page description language (PDL) file.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said print job includes at least one of: a plurality of pages and a plurality of documents.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said object is an image.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor also generates a signature associated with said object and compares said signature with other signatures stored in said object table.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor selectively increments said number of usages of said object by incrementing a value stored in an object reuse field of an object table.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor selectively increments said number of uses of said object by adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object in said object table.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, further comprising:
a cache memory unit for caching said object based upon said number of usages.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[20]]~~ 12, wherein said processor grouping pages with common objects into a partition and balances a number of pages between partitions.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein said processor transforms said object, prior to said determining whether said match exists, into a predetermined coordinate system and at least one predetermined sequence of rendering operations.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing a program that performs the steps of:

selecting an object in a print job;
determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; ~~[[and]]~~
selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step; and

partitioning said print job based upon said number of usages.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said print job comprises a page description language (PDL) file.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said print job includes at least one of: a plurality of pages and a plurality of documents.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said object is an image.

27. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said step of determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects further comprises the steps of:
generating a signature associated with said object; and
comparing said signature with other signatures stored in an object table.

28. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:
incrementing a value stored in an object reuse field of an object table.

29. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:
adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.

30. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, further comprising the step of:
caching said object based upon said number of usages.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~[[31]]~~ 23, further comprising the steps of:
grouping pages with common objects into a partition; and
balancing a number of pages between partitions.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 23, further comprising the step of:
transforming said object, prior to said step of determining, into a predetermined coordinate system and at least one predetermined sequence of rendering operations.

Claims 34-48 (Cancelled)

49. (Previously Presented) A system for processing a print job comprising:
means for selecting an object in said print job;
means for determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and
means for selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, further comprising:

means for transforming said object into a predetermined coordinate system and at least one predetermined sequence of rendering operations; and

means for generating a signature associated with said transformed object, wherein said means for determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects compares said signature with previously stored signatures.

Claims 51-58 (Cancelled)

59. (New) A method for processing a print job comprising the steps of:
selecting an object in said print job;
determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and
selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:
adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.

60. (New) A system for processing a print job comprising:
a processor for selecting an object in said print job and determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and
an object table for storing information associated with said print job, wherein said processor selectively increments a number of usages of said object based upon whether said object has said match, wherein said processor selectively increments said number of uses of said object by adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object in said object table.

61. (New) A computer-readable medium containing a program that performs the steps of:

selecting an object in a print job;

determining whether said object has a match among previously processed objects; and

selectively incrementing a number of usages of said object based upon a result of said determining step, wherein said step of selectively incrementing said number of uses of said object based upon a result of said determining step further comprises the step of:

adding a page number, which indicates where said object is used in said print job, to a list of page numbers associated with said object.